

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 /088 W

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R 201735 MAR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 745

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 1555

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING COMMITMENT:

SPC MEETING MARCH 20

REF: USNATO 1165 DTG 41710Z MAR 75

1. AT SPC MARCH 20, THE UK REP CIRCULATED UK VIEWS ON GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON THE COLLECTIVE CEILING COMMITMENT. BELGIAN REP CIRCULATED AN AMENDMENT TO THE BELGIAN TEXT OF MARCH 3 (REFTEL). THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE UK AND BELGIAN TEXTS OF MARCH 20. THE SPC RETURNS TO THIS ISSUE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25.

2. BEGIN UK TEXT

1. WE AGREE WITH THE US THAT IN ORDER TO EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING THE ALLIANCE SHOULD IN DUE COURSE PUT TO THE EAST AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW
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A COMMITMENT TO IT SHOULD BE EXPRESSED. WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE WISE AT THIS STAGE TO ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE PRECISE TREATY LANGUAGE FOR THE COMMITMENT OR TO DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH IT.

2. WE ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE DEGREE OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS BY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ENVISAGED IN THE US DELEGATION'S PAPER OF 17 FEBRUARY. IN OUR VIEW THIS WOULD EXPOSE THE ALLIES TO SEVERAL DANGERS. IN PARTICULAR IT COULD BE USED TO SUPPORT THE SOVIET ARGUMENT FOR NATIONAL FORCE CEILINGS, AND GIVE THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES A HANDLE TO INTERFERE IN EUROPEAN DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS. WE THINK THEREFORE THE ALLIANCE SHOULD ONLY PUT FORWARD A FORMULATION WHICH INVOLVED COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS BY EACH SIDE.

3. SUCH A COMMITMENT WOULD HAVE TO DEFINE THE FORCES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO COVER FRENCH FORCES IN A COMMON CEILING WITHOUT COMPROMISING FRENCH NON-PARTICIPANT STATUS, AND TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANT (EG BY MAKING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY FORCES STATIONED IN ITS TERRITORY). WE THINK THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET BY A FORMULATION WHICH DEFINED FORCES BY REFERENCE NOT TO THEIR NATIONAL ORIGIN BUT TO THEIR LOCATION IN THE EASTERN OR WESTERN SIDE OF THE REDUCTIONS AREA. THIS IDEA WOULD HAVE THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES OF REINFORCING THE NOTION OF MBFR AS BEING LIMITED TO THE REDUCTIONS AREA AND OF ALLOWING FORCES OF WHATEVER NATIONALITY TO BE STATIONED IN THE AREA PROVIDED THE COMMON CEILING WAS NOT EXCEEDED.

4. AS AN ILLUSTRATION WE SUGGEST THE FOUR FOLLOWING FORMULATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP:

A) THE WESTERN/EASTERN SIGNATORIES WOULD UNDERTAKE TO REDUCE THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OF GROUND FORCES MANPOWER IN THE WESTERN/EASTERN PART OF THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS FROM THE AGREED BASE FIGURE FOR REDUCTIONS TO THE AGREED COMMON CEILING FIGURE.

B) THE WESTERN/EASTERN SIGNATORIES WOULD UNDERTAKE TO ENSURE THAT THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OF GROUND FORCES MANPOWER IN THE WESTERN/EASTERN PART OF THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS DID NOT EXCEED THE AGREED COMMON CEILING AFTER THE COMPLETION OF REDUCTIONS.

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C) THIS COMMITMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AGREED EXCEPTIONS FOR ROTATIONS AND EXERCISES.

D) THE WESTERN/EASTERN SIGNATORIES WOULD UNDERTAKE JOINTLY TO NOTIFY THE EASTERN/WESTERN SIGNATORIES, THROUGH THE POST-REDUCTIONS MACHINERY TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT, ON 1 JANUARY OF EACH YEAR THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OF GROUND FORCES MANPOWER IN THE WESTERN/EASTERN PART OF THE REDUCTION AREA.

5. ON POST-REDUCTION MACHINERY WE DOUBT IF IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH A STANDING BODY IN PERMANENT SESSION TO ADMINISTER AN MBFR AGREEMENT. THE RUSSIANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY TRY TO GIVE SUCH A BODY FUNCTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS

DESIGNED AND TO EXPLOIT IT BOTH FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AND IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GREATER CONTROL OVER WESTERN DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS. BUT WE AGREE WITH THE US THAT A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE PERSON OR BODY WOULD BE REQUIRED ON EACH SIDE TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. WE SUGGEST THAT THIS BODY MIGHT BE A JOINT COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA OF THE SIGNATORY STATES WITH TWO CO-CHAIRMEN, ONE FROM EACH SIDE, ON A ROTATING BASIS. ALTHOUGH THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT BE FULL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION THEY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADDRESS DOCUMENTS TO THE COMMISSION ON MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR SECURITY, TO RECEIVE ALL DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION, AND TO ATTEND ITS MEETINGS.

END UK TEXT

3. BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF BELGIAN TEXT

I. TRANSMISSION OF LETTERS.

EACH OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AT THE MBFR CONFERENCE, REPRESENTING ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY, ADDRESSES, BEFORE THE SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY, TO EACH OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE, A LETTER INFORMING HIM OF THE APPORTIONMENT WHICH, ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE (N) THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES OF HIS SIDE HAVE DECIDED TO PROCEED AMONG THEMSELVES FOR THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE. (M).

II. ARTICLE (P)

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THE ABOVE MENTIONED COUNTRIES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO APPLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRECEDING ARTICLE IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO CONTRAVENE THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESENT TREATY.

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF BELGIAN TEXT
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: 11652 GDS
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
LONDON
MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
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